

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number 125-1050-017

2. Location

street & number 202 West 12th Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Coffeyville ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Montgomery code 125 zip code 67337

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ramon B. Power
Signature of certifying official/Title

SHPO

May 30, 1995

Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Ethnic Heritage; Black

Period of Significance

1907-1942

Significant Dates

1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, John A.; Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical society

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The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (c.1907) is located at 202 West 12th Street in Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas (pop. 12,917). The one-story, brick Romanesque and Gothic Revival church sits on a rusticated limestone foundation and is surmounted by a high pitched, asphalt shingled, gable roof. A gable facade and an adjoining entrance tower are the prominent features of the building. The building has a southern facade orientation with a secondary elevation to the east. The overall measurements are approximately sixty-two feet north to south and forty-two feet east to west. An asbestos sheathed parsonage sits a few feet north of the church, it is not included in the nomination.

The Bethel A. M. E. Church is a restrained eclectic interpretation that combines both the Romanesque and Gothic Revival styles. In ecclesiastical interpretations, such as the Bethel A. M. E. Church, gable roofs are common, as are arches for all openings and towers. Romanesque influences are found in round window and door arches and brick massing. The presence of the Gothic Revival Style is found in the crenelation motif on the tower roof line and buttressed corners. The castellated roof form and gable roofs ending in high parapeted walls rather than over hanging eaves is more closely based on English Medieval models.

The overall rectangular form of the church is surmounted by a high pitched, asphalt shingled, gable roof. The tower on the southeast corner has a flat roof with a crenelated parapet. A finished limestone stringcourse below the second story arched windows encircles the tower. The tower gives the facade of the church an asymmetrical appearance. A two-story, flat roof, brick and concrete addition projects from the north elevation. The church is constructed of brick. Projecting round brick arches surmount all windows and doors on the church, but not the addition. Limestone thresholds underscore each window. The raised foundation extends several feet above the ground and is constructed of rusticated limestone blocks. Small, rectangular, metal grate vents pierce the foundation. A limestone block watertable divides foundation and brick wall. The corners and east and west elevations are defined with brick buttresses capped with a finished limestone block.

The main entrance into the church is through the tower on the northwest corner of the building. Ten steps with limestone abutments lead up to the door. Inside the limestone abutments is a metal railing. A limestone cornerstone is located on the northwest corner next to the east limestone abutment. It reads "BETHEL AME CHURCH ERECTED 1907." A double door surmounted by a semi-circular, stained glass transom pierces the south facade of the tower. The stained glass says "BETHEL AME CHURCH." A circular stained glass window surmounts the door. The top story of the tower is defined with two narrow double hung sash windows surmounted by a semi-circular transom. The doors and windows are surmounted by projecting round brick arches. The tower is surmounted by a brick parapet. Corbelled brick dentiling is located below the parapet. Each corner parapet sits on a brick corbelled support that rises from the window mullion on the double hung sash window. The corners stand taller than inside parapets.

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The building remained intact as originally constructed until 1942 when the lightening system was remodeled and minor redecorating took place. In 1957, a two-story annex was added to the north elevation. The addition contained a dining hall, kitchen and rest rooms. Between 1964 and 1967, additional interior remodeling occurred during the installation of central air-conditioning and heating. At this time, an acoustical ceiling board and grid system was placed in the sanctuary. In 1975 the annex and sanctuary were redecorated. An asbestos sheathed parsonage sits a few feet north of the church, it is not included in the nomination.

The Bethel A. M. E. Church reflects all the design characteristics found in the ecclesiastical interpretation of a restrained Gothic-Romanesque Revival Church. The church maintains a high degree of exterior and interior architectural integrity.

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formed the founding organization for the A. M. E. Church. After the organization Amy Crouch was given a soliciting paper and the first donation she received was the lot upon which the church and parsonage are located. The lot was a gift from Attorney and Mrs. Luther Perkins.

The frame work of the first church building was erected on the site with the foundation completed by February 11, 1882. The structure was twenty by twenty-six feet. By April 22, 1882 the framing had been complete but not yet enclosed. During the week of December 10, 1882 a storm blew down and damaged the building, but the congregation began immediately to rebuild. In 1890, during the pastorate of Rev. L. W. McCormack the church building was made fourteen feet longer by sawing it apart and splicing it in the middle. Continuous work on the building lasted for sixteen years until 1906. At this time, increased prosperity and membership influenced the congregation and pastor to favor the building of a new church.

About 1900 the progressive businessmen of Coffeyville recognized the possibilities of the proximity of deposits of clay, sand and shale together with natural gas as a fuel. Within the next few years their efforts brought to Coffeyville eight glass factories and five brick and tile plants. The result was rapid expansion into an industrial city. In 1901 as a trading city, Coffeyville had a population of 5,000. By 1910, as an industrial city as well as a trading city, its population had increased to 12,700.

During this same period of rapid growth, the Bethel A. M. E. Church also grew. It was during this time that the congregation built the facility that stands today. The development of brick and tile as an industry in the area was a significant factor in the congregation's decision to build a brick structure in lieu of replacing the frame building with another or simply expand. The church became the center of social gatherings as well as religious activities for the congregation and their friends.

The Coffeyville Journal reported that the Bethel A. M. E. Church was planning a new building in the 18 January 1907 edition.

"Work will begin soon on the new \$6,000 edifice of the A. M. E. church people are to erect at the corner of Twelfth and Maple. The building is to be built of brick, the basement will be constructed with pavers and for the remainder pressed brick will be used. The trimmings will be stone. The church tower will be square and will be 46 feet in height. The ceiling is to be arched and will be composed of steel. While it will not be so very large, being 40 x 60 feet, it will be a very beautiful little church said John A. Simon, who has the plans almost completed. The basement will be ten feet deep and will be the Sunday school room."

Of the many financial rallies that were launched during the building program, the most successful was the Easter rally of 1907. At that time more than a thousand dollars was raised. The greater portion which was previously pledged by the members and paid in full on the day of the rally.

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, Vergie. "Bethel A. M. E. Church." (National Register nomination draft, 1993).

The Coffeyville Journal, 18 May 1882; 22 April 1882; 16 December 1882; 18 January 1907; 1 April 1907; 14 February 1935; 19 November 1942.

Jacobs, Dennis W. "Bethel A. M. E. Church." (National Register nomination draft, November 29, 1983).

Pierson, William. American Buildings and Their Architects: Volume 2. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

Roth, Leland M. A Concise History of American Architecture. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1979.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located in Block 85 on Lot 16 in Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the south by Twelfth Street, to the north by an alley, to the east by Maple Street, and to the west by an adjacent property line.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property historically associated with the church also includes the parsonage which is not included in the nomination.

